



Embassy of the United States of America
Office of Public Affairs
Baku, Azerbaijan



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

83, Azadlıq Prospekti
AZ1007 Bakı, Azərbaycan
Email: MirzoyevaSO@state.gov

Phone: +(99412) 498 03 35
Fax: +(99412) 498 93 12
URL: <http://baku.usembassy.gov/>

PRESS RELEASE

February 13, 2006

Community Connections Program

The United States Embassy invites media representatives to the launch of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Community Connections Program on February 14 at 11:00 am at the International Press Center, Khagani/1 F.Amirov Street, Baku. The program will solicit the participation of professionals from Baku and selected regions of Azerbaijan for three-week exchanges in the U.S. During these exchanges, participants will live with U.S. host families, participate in training events, seminars and site visits, gain first-hand knowledge of American culture and expose American communities to Azerbaijani life and culture. The participants will meet with state and government officials, advocacy groups, NGOs, and visit alumni organizations, public relations departments and local television stations. Participants will meet with professional colleagues in the U.S. to further the sharing of knowledge. Upon return, participants will become socially active and develop and conduct educational and informational campaigns. Seven groups will be selected for the following themes:

- 1. Injury Prevention** (Regions for recruitment: Baku, Ganja and Yevlakh)
- 2. Inter-Religious Cooperation for Civil Society Development** (Baku, Lenkaran, Zaqatala, Quba, Qusar, Beylagan)
- 3. Improving the Quality of University Education through Student Activity and Involvement** (Baku, Ganje, Lenkaran, Nakhchivan)
- 4. Handicraft Production and Marketing** (Imishli, Saatli, Sabirabad, Jalilabad, Bilasuvar)
- 5. Health Promotion and Communication: Family Planning, Reproductive Health or Women's Health** (Goychay, Agsu and Shamakhi)
- 6. Promoting Women's Participation in the Electoral Process** (Nationwide)
- 7. Small Agri-business Cooperatives** (Nationwide)

For additional information regarding the Community Connections program please contact Project Harmony, by e-mail: afag@projectharmony.az; or by phone: (+994 12) 4479190, 447 9181